

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page one, after the title and before the first sentence, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of pending prior international application number PCT/NL01/00935, filed on December 21, 2001; which claims priority from Netherlands patent application number NL 1016981, filed December 22, 2000; both of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

After page 22, on new page 23, please insert the following abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a method for preparing a product having a low content of microorganisms by using steam. A method according to the invention can be used to pasteurize or sterilize a product, while retaining the activity of one or more active substances that may be present in the product, and relates to a method wherein a product is dried with air. Furthermore, the invention relates to a product obtainable according to a method according to the invention.

New page 23 of the application with the abstract is also being herewith submitted.